

A
Brief Description
OF
NEW-YORK:
Formerly Called
New-Netherlands.

With the Places thereunto Adjoyning.

Together with the
Manner of its Scituation, Fertility of the Soyle,
Healthfulness of the Climate, and the
Commodities thence produced.

ALSO
Some Directions and Advice to such as shall go
thither: An Account of what Commodities they shall
take with them; The Profit and Pleasure that
may accrew to them thereby.

LIKEWISE
A Brief RELATION of the Customs of the
Indians there.

By DANIEL DENTON.

LONDON,
Printed for John Hancock, at the first Shop in Paper-Head-Alley in
Corabill at the three Bibles, and William Bradley at the three Bibles
in the Minories, 1679.

Phot. of HEH 13987

Brief Description

NEW-YORK:

New-Netherlands.

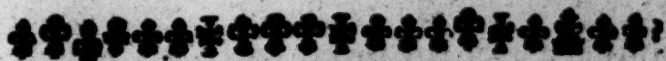
With the History and Antiquities.

By J. B. H. J. VAN DER AART, Esq.
of the Society of the Sons of Liberty, and the
of the Dutch Colonies.

By J. B. H. J. VAN DER AART, Esq.
of the Society of the Sons of Liberty, and the
of the Dutch Colonies.

By J. B. H. J. VAN DER AART, Esq.
of the Society of the Sons of Liberty, and the
of the Dutch Colonies.

By J. B. H. J. VAN DER AART, Esq.



TO THE
Reader.

Reader,



Have here thorough the Investigation of divers Persons in *England*, and elsewhere, presented you with a Brief but true Relation of a known unknown part of *America*. The known part which is either inhabited, or lieth near the Sea, I have described to you, and have writ nothing, but what I have been an eye-witness to all or the greatest part of it: Neither can I safely say, was I willing to exceed, but was rather willing the place it self should exceed my Commendation, which I question not but will be owned by those that shall travel

A 3

thither:

To the Reader.

thither: For the unknown part, which is either some places lying to the Northward yet undiscovered by any *English*, or the Bowels of the earth not yet opened, though the Natives tell us of Glittering Stones, Diamonds, or Pearl in the one, and the *Dutch* hath boasted of Gold and Silver in the other; yet I shall not feed your expectation with any thing of that nature; but leave it ti'l a better discovery shall make way for such a Relation. In the mean time accept of this from him who desireth to deal impartially with every one,

DANIEL DENTON.



A
Brief Relation

OF
NEW-YORK,

With the Places thereunto Adjoyning,
formerly called

THE NEW NETHERLANDS, &c.

That Tract of Land formerly called *The New Netherlands*, doth contain all that Land which lieth in the North-parts of *America*, betwixt *New-England* and *Mary-Land* in *Virginia*, the length of which Northward into the Countrey, as it hath not been fully discovered, so it is not certainly known. The breadth of it is about two hundred miles: The principal Rivers within this Tract, are *Hudsons River*, *Raritan-River*, and *Delawerbay-River*. The chief Islands are the *Manahatons-Island*, *Long-Island*, and *Statens-Island*.

And

And first to begin with the *Manhattan* Island, so called by the *Indians*, it lieth within land betwixt the degrees of 41. and 43. of North-latitude, and is about 14 miles long, and two broad. It is bounded with *Long-Island* on the South, with *Staten-Island* on the West, on the North with the Main Land: And with *Connecticut* Colony on the East-side of it; only a part of the Main Land belonging to *New-York* Colony, where several Towns and Villages are settled, being about thirty miles in breadth, doth intercept the *Manhattan* Island, and the Colony of *Connecticut* before-mentioned.

New-York is settled upon the West-end of the aforesaid Island, having that small arm of the Sea, which divides it from *Long-Island* on the South-side of it, which runs away Eastward to *New-England*, and is Navigable, though dangerous. For about ten miles from *New-York* is a place called *Hell-Gate*, which being a narrow passage, there runneth a violent stream both upon flood and ebb, and in the middle lieth some Islands of Rocks, which the Current sets so violently upon, that it threatens present shipwreck; and upon the Flood is a large Whirlpool, which continually sends forth a hideous roaring, enough to affright any stranger from passing further, and to wait for some *Charon* to conduct him thorough; yet to those that are well acquainted little or no danger, yet a place of great defence against any enemy coming in that way, which a small Fortification would absolutely prevent, and necessitate them to come in at the West-end of *Long-Island* by *Sandy Hook*, where *Nuttan-Island* doth force them within Command of the Fort at *New-York*, which is one of the best Pieces of Defence in the North-parts of *America*.

New

(3)
New York is built most of Brick and Stone, and covered with red and black Tile, and the Land being high, it gives at a distance a pleasing Aspect to the Spectators. The Inhabitants consist most of English and Dutch, and have a considerable Trade with the Indians for Beavers, Otter, Raccoon skins, with other Furs; As also for Bear, Deer, and Elk skins; and are supplied with Venison and Fowl in the Winter, and Fish in the Summer by the Indians, which they buy at an easie rate; And having the Countrey round about them, they are continually furnished with all such provisions as is needful for the life of man; not only by the English and Dutch within their own, but likewise by the Adjacent Colonies.

The Commodities vented from thence is Furs and Skins before-mentioned; As likewise Tobacco made within the Colony, as good as is usually made in Maryland: Also Horses, Beef, Pork, Oyl, Pease, Wheat, and the like.

Long-Island, the West-end of which lies Southward of New-York, runs Eastward above one hundred miles, and is in some places eight, in some twelve, in some fourteen miles broad; It is inhabited from one end to the other. On the West-end is four or five Dutch Towns, the rest being all English to the number of twelve, besides Villages and Farm houses. The Island is most of it of a very good soyle, and very natural for all sorts of English Grain; which they sow and have very good increase of; besides all other Fruits and Herbs common in England, as also Tobacco, Hemp, Flax, Pumpkins, Melons, &c. and many sorts of Fruit and

The Fruits natural to the Island, are Mulberries, and many other sorts of Fruit, as Apples, Peaches, &c.

(4)
Peaches, Grapes great and small, Raspberries,
Strawberries, Plums of several sorts, Redberries and
Blackberries, of which list is such abundance in
June, that the Fields and Woods are dyed red:
Which the Countrey-people perceiving, instantly
arm themselves with bottles of Wine, Cream, and
Sugar, and in stead of a Coat of Male, every one
takes a female upon his Horse behind him, and so
rushing violently into the fields, never leave till
they have disrob'd them of their red colours, and
turned them into the old habit.

The greatest part of the Island is very full of
Timber, as Oaks white and red, Walnut-trees, Ches-
nut-trees, which yield store of Mast for Swine, and
are often therewith sufficiently fattened with Oat-
Corn: as also Maples, Cedars, Sanifrage, Beech,
Birch, Holly, Hazel, with many sorts more.

The Herbs which the Countrey naturally afford,
are Purslain, white Orage, Egrimony, Violets, Pen-
niroyal, Alicampane, besides Saxaparilla very com-
mon, with many more. Yea, in May you shall see the
Woods and Fields so curiously bedecked with Roses,
and an innumerable multitude of delightful Flow-
ers, not only pleasing the eye, but smell, that you
may behold Nature contending with Art, and stri-
ving to equal, if not excel many Gardens in Eng-
land: nay, did we know the vertue of all those Plants
and Herbs growing there (which time may more
discover) many are of opinion, and the Natives do
affirm, that there is no disease common to the Coun-
treys, but may be cured without Materials from o-
ther Nations.

There is several Navigable Rivers and Bays, which
puts

(5)

puts into the North-side of *Long-Island*; but upon the South-side which joyns to the Sea, it is so fortified with bars of sands and shoals, that it is a sufficient defence against any enemy; yet the South-side is not without Brooks and Riverets, which empty themselves into the Sea; yea, you shall scarce travel a mile, but you shall meet with one of them whose Christal streams run so swift, that they purge themselves of such stinking mud and filth, which the standing or low-paced streams of most brooks and rivers westward of this Colony leave lying, and are by the Suns exhalation dissipated, the Air corrupted, and many Fevers and other distempers occasioned, not incident to this Colony: Neither do the Brooks and Riverets premised, give way to the Frost in Winter, or draught in Summer, but keep their course throughout the year.

These Rivers are very well furnished with Fish, as Bosse, Sheepheads, Place, Pearch, Trouts, Eel, Turtles, and divers others.

The Island is plentifully stored with all sorts of *English* Cattel. Horses, Hogs, Sheep, Goats, &c. no place in the North of *America* better, which they can both raise and maintain, by reason of the large and spacious Meadows or Marches wherewith it is furnished, the Island likewise producing excellent *English* grass, the seed of which was brought out of *England*, which they sometime mow twice a year.

For wilde Beasts there is Deer, Bear, Wolves, Foxes, Racoons, Otters, Musquashes and Skunks. Wild Fowl there is great store of, as Turkeys, Heath-Hens, Quails, Partridges, Pidgeons, Cranes, Geese

(6)
of several sorts, Brants, Ducks, Widgeon, Teal, and
divers others: There is also the red Bird, with di-
vers sorts of singing birds, whose chirping notes so-
lute the ears of Travellers with an harmonious dis-
cord, and in every pond and brook green silken
Frogs, who warbling forth their untun'd tunes
strive to bear a part in this musick.

Towards the middle of *Long-Island* lyeth a plain
sixteen miles long and four broad, upon which
plain grows very fine grass, that makes exceeding
good Hay, and is very good pasture for sheep or o-
ther Cattel; where you shall find neither stick nor
stone to hinder the Horse heels, or endanger them
in their Races, and once a year the best Horses in the
Island are brought hither to try their swiftness, and
the swiftest rewarded with a silver Cup, two being
Annually procured for that purpose. There are two
or three other small plains of about a mile square,
which are no small benefit to those Towns which
enjoy them.

Upon the South-side of *Long-Island* in the Win-
ter, lie store of Whales and Crampasses, which the
inhabitants begin with small boats to make a trade
Catching to their no small benefit. Also an innu-
merable multitude of Seals, which make an excel-
lent oyle; they lie all the Winter upon some broken
Marshes and Beaches, or bars of land before-mentio-
ned, and might be easily got were there some skilful
men would undertake it.

To say something of the *Indians*, there is now but
few upon the Island, and those few no ways hurtful
but rather serviceable to the *English*, and it is to be
admired, how strangely they have decreased by the
Hand

Hand of God; since the *English* first settling of those parts; for since my time, where there were six towns, they are reduced to two small Villages, and it hath been generally observed, that where the *English* come to settle, a Divine Hand makes way for them, by removing or cutting off the *Indians*, either by Wars one with the other, or by some raging mortal Disease.

They live principally by Hunting, Fowling, and Fishing: their Wives being the Husbandmen to till the Land, and plant their corn.

The meat they live most upon is Fish, Fowl, and Venison; they eat likewise Polecats, Skunks, Raccoon, Possum, Turtles, and the like.

They build small moveable Tents, which they remove two or three times a year, having their principal quarters where they plant their Corn: their Hunting quarters, and their Fishing quarters: Their Recreations are chiefly Foot-ball and Cards, at which they will play away all they have, excepting a Flap to cover their nakedness: They are great lovers of strong drink, yet do not care for drinking, unless they have enough to make themselves drunk; and if there be so many in their Company, that there is not sufficient to make them all drunk, they usually select so many out of their Company, proportionable to the quantity of drink, and the rest must be Spectators. And if any one chance to be drunk before he hath finish'd his proportion, (which is ordinarily a quart of Brandy, Rum or Strong-waters) the rest will pour the rest of his part down his throat.

They

They often kill one another at these drunken Matches, which the friends of the murdered person, do revenge upon the Murderer, unless he purchase his life with money, which they sometimes do: Their money is made of a Periwinkle shell of which there is black and white, made much like unto beads, and put upon strings.

For their worship which is diabolical, it is performed usually but once or twice a year, unless upon some extraordinary occasion, as upon making of War or the like; their usual time is about *Michelsmas*, when their corn is first ripe, the day being appointed by their chief Priest or *paraw*; most of them go a hunting for venison: When they are all congregated, their priest tells them if he want money, that God will accept of no other offering, which the people believing, every one gives money according to their ability. The priest takes the money, and putting it into some dishes, sets them upon the top of their low flat-roofed houses, and falls to invoking their God to come and receive it, which with a many loud hallows and outcries, knocking the ground with sticks, and beating themselves, is performed by the priest, and seconded by the people.

After they have thus a while wearied themselves, the priest by his Conjurati^on brings in a devil amongst them, in the shape sometimes of a fowl, sometimes of a beast, and sometimes of a man, at which the people being amazed, not daring to stir, he improves the opportunity, steps out, and makes sure of the money, and then returns to lay the spirit, who in the mean time is sometimes gone, and takes some of the Company along with him: but if any *English* at such times do come amongst them, it puts
a pe-

(2)
a person to their proceeding, and they will desire
their absence, telling them their God will not come
whilst they are there.

In their wars they fight no pitched fields, but
when they have notice of an enemies approach, they
endeavor to secure their wives and children upon
some Island, or in some thick Swamp, and then with
their guns and hatchets they way-lay their enemies,
some lying behind one, some another, and it is a
great fight where seven or eight is slain.

When any *Indian* dies amongst them, they bu-
ry him upright, sitting upon a seat, with his
Gun, money, and such goods as he hath with him;
that he may be furnished in the other world, which
they conceive is Westward, where they shall have
great store of Game for Hunting and live easie
lives; At his Burial his nearest Relations attend
the Hearse with their faces painted black, and do
visit the grave once or twice a day, where they send
forth sad lamentations so long, till time hath wore
the blackness off their faces, and afterwards every
year once they view the grave, make a new mourn-
ing for him, trimming up of the Grave, not suf-
fering of a Grass to grow by it: they fence their
graves with a hedge, and cover the tops with Mats,
to shelter them from the rain.

Any *Indian* being dead, his Name dies with him,
no person daring ever after to mention his Name, it
being not only a breach of their Law, but an abuse
to his friends and relations present, as if it were
done on purpose to renew their grief: And any o-
ther person whatsoever that is named after that
name doth incontinently change his name, and
takes

takes a new one, their names are not proper for names at among Christians, but every one invents a name to himself, which he likes best. Some calling themselves *Ra tie-snak*, *Skunk*, *Buck-born*, or the like: And if a person die, that his name is some word which is used in speech, they likewise change that word, and invent some new one, which makes a great change and alteration in their language.

When any person is sick, after some means used by his friends, every one pretending skill in Physick; that proving ineffectual, they send for a Pawaw or Priest, who sitting down by the sick person, without the least enquiry after the distemper, waits for a gift, which he proportions his work accordingly to: that being received, he first begins with a low voice to call upon his God, calling sometimes upon one, sometimes on another, raising his voice higher and higher, beating of his naked breasts and sides, till the sweat runneth down, and his breath is almost gone, then that little which is remaining, he evaporates upon the face of the sick person three or four times together, and so takes his leave.

Their Marriages are performed without any Ceremony, the Match being first made by money. The sum being agreed upon and given to the woman, it makes a consummation of their Marriage, if I may so call it: After that, he keeps her during his pleasure, and upon the least dislike turns her away and takes another: It is no offence for their married women to lie with another man, provided she acquaint her husband, or some of her nearest Relations with it, but if not, it is accounted such a fault that they sometimes punish it with death: An *Indian* may have two wives or more if he please; but it is not so much in use as it was since the *English* came amongst them: they being ready in some measure

Are to imitate the *English* in things both good and bad: any Maid between the a nation doth lie with whom she pleases for money, without any scandal, or the least suspicion to be cast upon her, it being so customary, and their laws tolerating of it. They are extraordinary charitable one to another, one having nothing to spare, but he freely imparts it to his friends, and whatsoever they get by gaming or any other way, they share one to another, leaving themselves commonly the least share.

At their *Cantios's* or dancing Matches, where all persons that come are freely entertained, it being a Festival time: Their custom is when they dance, every one but the Dancers to have a short stick in their hand, and to knock the ground and sing altogether, whilst they that dance sometimes set warlike postures, and then they come in painted for War with their faces black and red, or some all black, some all red, with some streaks of white under their eyes, and so jump and leap up and down without any order, uttering many expressions of their intended valour. For other Dances they only shew what Antick tricks their ignorance will lead them to, wringing of their bodies and faces after a strange manner, sometimes jumping into the fire, sometimes catching up a Fire-brand, and biting off a live coal, with many such tricks, that will affright, if not please an *English* man to look upon them, resembling rather a company of infernal Furies than men. When their King or *Sachem* sits in Council, he hath a Company of armed men to guard his Person, great respect being shewn him by the People, which is principally manifested by their silence: After he hath declared the cause of their convention, he demands their opinion, ordering who shall begin: The person ordered to speak, after he hath declared his minde, tells them he hath

C

done:

(17)
done: no man ever literrally say any person in his
Court, nor offering to speak though he hath been
in any or four years, till he say he hath no
more to say: the Council having all decided their
Opinions, the King after some pause gives the defi-
nitive sentence, which is commonly seconded with
a shout from the people; every one seeming to ap-
plaud, and manifest their Assent to what is determi-
ned: If any person be condemned to die, which is
seldom, unless for Murder or Incest, the King him-
self goes out in person (for you must understand they
have no prisons, and the guilty person flies into the
Wood) where they go in quest of him, and having
found him, the King shoots first, though at never
such a distance, and then happy is the man can shoot
him down, and cut off his *Long*, which they com-
monly wear, who for his pains is made some Cap-
tain, or other military Officer.

Their Cloathing is a yard and an half of broad
Cloth, which is made for the *Indian Trade*, which
they hang upon their shoulders; and half a yard of
the same cloth, which being put betwixt their legs,
and brought up before and behinde, and tied with
a Girdle about their middle, hangs with a flap on
each side: They wear no Hats, but commonly
wear about their Heads a Snake's skin, or a Belt of
their money, or a kind of a Ruff made with Deers
hair, and dyed of a scarlet colour, which they esteem
very rich.

They grease their bodies and hair very often, and
paint their faces with several colours, as black,
white, red, yellow, blew, &c. which they take great
pride in, every one being painted in a several man-
ner: Thus much for the Customs of the *In-
dians*.

Within.

Within two Leagues of *New-York* lies *Stony Island*, it bears from *New-York* West somewhat Southerly: It is about twenty miles long, and four or five broad: it is most of it very good Land, full of Timber, and produceth all such commodities as *Long-Island* doth, besides Tin and store of Iron Ore, and the Calamine stone is said likewise to be found there: There is but one Town upon it consisting of *English* and *French*, but is capable of entertaining more inhabitants: betwixt this and *Long-Island* is a large Bay, and is the coming in for all ships and vessels out of the Sea: On the North-side of this Island *Aster-shull* River puts into the main Land on the West-side, whereof is two or three Towns, but on the East-side but one. There is very great Marshes or Meadows on both sides of it, excellent good Land, and good convenience for the settling of several Towns; there grows black Walnut and Locust, as their doth in *Virginia*, with mighty tall straight Timber, as good as any in the North of *America*: It produceth any Commodity *Long-Island* doth.

Hudsons River runs by *New-York* Northward into the Countrey, toward the Head of which is seated *New-Albany*, a place of great Trade with the *Indians*, betwixt which and *New-York*, being above one hundred miles, is as good Corn-land as the World affords, enough to entertain Hundreds of Families, which in the time of the *Dutch* Government of those parts could not be settled: For the *Indians*, excepting one place, called the *Sarrs*, which was kept by a Garrison, but since the reducement of those parts under His Majesties obedience, and a Patent granted to his Royal Highness the Duke of *York*, which is about six years since by the care and diligence of the Honourable

Coll. *Nichols* sent thither Deputy to His Highness, such a League of Peace was made, and Friendship concluded betwixt that Colony and the *Indians*, that they have not resisted or disturbed any Christians there, in the settling or peaceable possessing of any Lands with that Government, but every man hath sate under his own Vine, and hath peaceably reapt and enjoyed the fruits of their own labours, which God continue.

Westward of *After-Kull* River before-mentioned, about 18 or 20 miles runs in *Ravitan*-River Northward into the Countrey, some score of miles, both sides of which River is adorn'd with spacious Meadows, enough to maintain thousands of Cattel, the Wood-land is likewise very good for corn, and stor'd with wilde Beasts, as Deer, and Elks, and an innumerable multitude of Fowl, as in other parts of the Countrey: This River is thought very capable for the erecting of several Towns and Villages on each side of it, no place in the North of *America* having better convenience for the maintaining of all sorts of Cattel for Winter and Summer-food: upon this River is no town settled, but one at the mouth of it. Next this River Westward is a place called *New-asour*, where is two or three Towns and Villages settled upon the Sea-side, but none betwixt that and *Delewer* Bay, which is about sixty miles, all which is a rich Champaign Countrey, free from stones, and indifferent level; store of excellent good timber, and very well watered, having brooks or rivers ordinarily, one or more in every miles travel: The Countrey is full of Deer, Elks, Bear, and other Creatures, as in other parts of the Countrey, where you shall meet with no inhabitant in this journey, but a few *Indians*, where there is stately Oaks, whose broad-branched-tops serve for no other use, but to keep

keep off the Sons, heag from the wilde Beasts of the Wildernesse, where is grass as high as a mans middle, that serves for no other end except to maintain the Elks and Deer, who never devour a hundredth part of it, then to be burnt every Spring to make way for new. How many poor people in the world would think themselves happy, had they an Acre or two of Land, whilst here is hundreds, nay thousands of Acres, that would invite inhabitants.

Delaware by the mouth of the River, lyeth about the Mid-way betwixt *New-York* and the *Capes* of *Virginia*: It is a very pleasant River and Countrey, but very few inhabitants, and them being mostly *Swedes*, *Dutch* and *Finns*: about sixty miles up the River is the principal Town called *New-Castle*, which is about 40 miles from *Mary-land*, and very good way to travel, either with horse or foot, the people are sciled all along the west side sixty miles above *New-Castle*; the land is good for all sorts of *English* grain, and wanteth nothing but a good people to populate it, it being capable of entertaining many hundred families.

Some may admire, that these great and rich Tracts of land, lying so adjoyning to *New-England* and *Virginia*, should be no better inhabited, and that the richness of the soyle, the healthfulness of the Climate, and the like, should be no better a motive to induce people from both places to populate it.

To which I answer, that whilst it was under the *Dutch* Government, which hath been till within these six years; there was little encouragement for any *English*, both in respect of their safety from the *Indians*, the *Dutch* being almost always in danger of them; and their *Beaver-trade* not admitting of a War, which would have been destructive to their trade,

trade, which was the main thing prosecuted by the *Dutch*. And secondly, the *Dutch* gave such bad Titles to Lands; together with their exacting of the Tenth of all which men produced off their Land, that did much hinder the populating of it; together with that general dislike the *English* have of living under another Government; but since the reduction of it there is several Towns of a considerable greatness begun and settled by people out of *New-England*, and every day more and more come to view and settle.

To give some satisfaction to people that shall be desirous to transport themselves thither, (the Country being capable of entertaining many thousands,) how and after what manner people live, and how Land may be procured, &c. I shall answer, that the usual way, is for a Company of people to joyn together, either enough to make a Town, or a lesser number; These go with the consent of the Governor, and view a Tract of Land, there being choice enough, and finding a place convenient for a Town, they return to the Governour, who upon their desire admits them into the Colony, and gives them a Grant or Patent for the said Land, for themselves and Associates. These persons being thus qualified, settle the place, and take in what inhabitants to themselves they shall see cause to admit of, till their Town be full; these Associates thus taken in have equal priviledges with themselves, and they make a division of the Land suitable to every mans occasions, no man being debar'd of such quantities as he hath occasion for, the rest they let lie in common till they have occasion for a new division, never dividing their Pasture-land at all, which is in common to the whole Town. The best Commodities for any to carry with them is Clothing, the Country being
full

sell of all sorts of Cattel, which they may furnish themselves withal at an easie rate, for any sorts of *English Goods*; as likewise Instruments for Husbandry and Building, with Nails, Hinges, Glasse, and the like; For the manner how they get a livelihood, it is principally by Corn and Cattel, which will there fetch them any Commodities; likewise they sow store of Flax, which they make every one Cloth of for their own wearing, as also woollen Cloth, and Linsey-woolsey, and had they more Tradesmen amongst them, they would in a little time live without the help of any other Countrey for their Clothing; For Tradesmen there is none but live happily there, as Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Masons, Tailors, Weavers, Shoemakers, Tanners, Brickmakers, and so any other Trade; them that have no Trade betake themselves to Husbandry, get Land of their own, and live exceeding well.

Thus have I briefly given you a Relation of *New-York*, with the places thereunto adjoining; In which, if I have err'd, it is principally in not giving it its due commendation; for besides those earthly blessings where it is stor'd, Heaven hath not been wanting to open his Treasure, in sending down seasonable showres upon the Earth, blessing it with a sweet and pleasant Air, and a Continuation of such Influences as tend to the Health both of Man and Beast: and the Climate hath such an affinity with that of *England*, that it breeds ordinarily no alteration to those which remove thither; that the name of seasoning, which is common to some other Countreys hath never there been known; That I may say, and say truly, that if there be any
terrestrial

terrestrial happiness to be had by people of all ranks, especially of an inferior rank, it must certainly be here: here any one may furnish himself with land, and live rent-free, yea, with such a quantity of land, that he may weary himself with walking over his fields of Corn, and all sorts of Grain: and let his Stock of Cattel amount to some hundreds, he needs not fear their want of pasture in the Summer, or Fodder in the Winter, the Woods affording sufficient supply. For the Summer-season, where you have grass as high as a mans knees, nay, as high as his waste, interlaced with Pea-vines and other weeds that Cattel much delight in, as much as a man can prester thorough; and these woods also every mile or half-mile are furnished with fresh ponds, brooks, or rivers, where all sorts of Cattel, during the heat of the day, do quench their thirst and cool themselves; these brooks and rivers being invironed of each side with several sorts of trees and Grape-vines, the Vines, Arbor-like, are changing places and crossing these rivers, does shade and shelter them from the scorching beams of *Sols* fiery influence: Here those which Fortune hath frown'd upon in *England*, to deny them an inheritance amongst their Brethren, or such as by their utmost labors can scarcely procure a living, I say such may procure here inheritances of land and possessions, stock themselves with all sorts of Cattel, enjoy the benefit of them whilst they live, and leave them to the benefit of their children when they die: Here you need not trouble the Shambles for meat, nor Bakers and Brewers for Beer and Bread, nor run to a Linnen-Draper for a supply, every one making their own Linnen, and a great part of their woollen-cloth for their ordinary wearing: And how prodigal, if I may so say, hath Nature been to furnish the Countrey with all sorts of wilde Beasts and

and Fowle, which every one hath an interest in, and may hunt at his pleasure; where besides the pleasure in hunting, he may furnish his house with excellent fat Venison, Turkeys, Geese, Heath-Hens, Cranes, Swans, Ducks, Pidgeons, and the like: and wearied with that, he may go a Fishing, where the Rivers are so furnished, that he may supply himself with Fish before he can leave off the Recreation: Where you may travel by Land upon the same Continent hundreds of miles, and passe thorough Towns and Villages, and never hear the least complaint for want, nor hear any ask you for a farthing: there you may lodge in the fields and woods, travel from one end of the Countrey to another, with as much security as if you were lockt within your own Chamber; And if you chance to meet with an *Indian* Town, they shall give you the best entertainment they have, and upon your desire, direct you on your way: But that which adds happiness to all the rest, is the Healthfulness of the place, where many people in twenty years time never know what sickness is: where they look upon it as a great mortality if two or three die out of a town in a years time; where besides the sweetness of the Air, the Countrey it self sends forth such a fragrant smell, that it may be perceived at Sea before they can make the Land: where no evil fog or vapour doth no sooner appear, but a North-west or Westerly winde doth immediately dissolve it, and drive it away: What shall I say more? you shall scarce see a house, but the South side is begirt with Hives of Bees, which increase after an incredible manner: That I must needs say, that if there be any terrestrial *Canaan*, 'tis surely here, where the Land floweth with milk and honey. The inhabitants are blest with Peace and plenty, blessed in their Countrey, blessed in their Fields, blessed in the Fruit of
D their

their bodies, in the fruit of their grounds, in the increase of their Cattel, Horses and Sheep, blessed in their Basket, and in their Store. In a word, blessed in whatsoever they take in hand, or go about, the Earth yielding plentiful increase to all their painful labours.

Were it not to avoid prolixity I could say a great deal more, and yet say too little, how free are those parts of the world from that pride and oppression, with their miserable effects, which many, nay almost all parts of the world are troubled, with being ignorant of that pomp and bravery which aspiring Humours are servants to, and striving after almost every where: where a Waggon or Cart gives as good content as a Coach; and a piece of their home made Cloth, better than the finest Lawns or richest Silks: and though their low-roofed houses may seem to shut their doors against pride and luxury, yet how do they stand wide open to let charity in and out, either to assist each other, or relieve a stranger, and the distance of place from other Nations, doth secure them from the envious frowns of ill-affected Neighbours, and the troubles which usually arise thence.

Now to conclude, its possible some may say, what needs a Relation of a place so long standing as *New York* hath been? In answer to which I have said something before, as to satisfy the desires of many that never had any Relation of it. Secondly, though it hath been long settled, yet but lately reduced to his Majesties obedience, and by that means but new or unknown to the *English*; Else certainly those great number of Furs, that have been lately transported from thence into *Holland* had never past the hands of our *English* Furriers: Thirdly, never any Relation before was published to my knowledge, and the

(21)

the place being capable of entertaining 'so great a number of inhabitants, where they may with Gods blessing, and their own industry, live as happily as any people in the world. A true Relation was necessary, not only for the encouragement of many that have a desire to remove themselves, but for the satisfaction of others that would make a trade thither.

FINIS.

*The Accurate Accomptant or London-Merchant;
Containing an Analysis for Instructions and Directions
for a Methodical keeping Merchants Accompts,
by way of Debitor and Creditor, very useful for all
Merchants or others, that desire to learn or teach the
Exact Method of keeping Merchants Accompts, by
Thomas Brown Accomptant; To be sold by John
Harcourt, at the first shop in Popes-Head-Alley, at
the sign of the Three Bibles in Cornhill, 1670.*

collated MK
2/4/33 Ed

